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This sketch of the college library is presented as part of the Bicentennial Celebration of Washington College in Maryland. It is compiled from references in *Washington College*, a history by Fred W. Dumschott, from college catalogs, alumni bulletins and other college publications, from librarians' annual reports, early minutes of the Board of Visitors and Governors, and from miscellaneous material located in the college archives.



[illegible]

In the preamble of the first charter of Washington College, 1782, the provision of "necessary books" immediately follows the stated intention of establishing a "system of liberal education in the arts and sciences." Among old papers in the college archives is a list of books that could well be those necessary books. It includes twenty-three volumes of the **Annual Register** which since it began in 1758, would have published volume 23 in 1782. Also listed are four volumes of **Political Magazine**, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783. In his **Account of Washington College** William Smith told of a new subscription and lottery to obtain funds for preparing the college building and for "increasing the library." From the earliest times, therefore, the library has been an integral part of the college.

An early list of books assumed to be the start of the first library.

Although the fire of 1827 which destroyed the college building was reported in the *Chestertown Telegraph* at the time, there was no mention of the destruction of the library. However, years later the *Kent News* of August 23, 1845, reported that "a liberal appropriation has recently been made for the purchase of a library, that formerly belonging to the Institution having been consumed by the great fire which destroyed the old college edifice."



Original building of Washington College

In Nasseau Hall at Princeton, which is very similar in design, the first library is known to have been located on the second floor, center front. The architects of the two buildings are believed to have had some connection. The possibility, therefore, arises that Washington College's first library was in that prominent place, too.



Presumably the library was housed on the second floor of Middle Hall when it was first occupied in 1844. Some forty years later Dr. J.R. Micou arrived as instructor and later wrote of the college as it was in the late nineteenth century. He recalled that the northwest room on the second floor of Middle Hall served as the library.



The library was established in 1844 in one room on the second floor of Middle Hall. Later it was located in two rooms on the first floor.

By the mid-century the library was well established, and in 1855 the Principal, Dr. Francis Waters, recommended the following rules for the library:

1. The library shall be opened between the hours of one and two p.m. every Thursday.
2. No student shall keep a book longer than three weeks.
3. Any student, not returning his book at the expiration of three weeks, shall pay a fine of 25 cents - and 25 cents a week thereafter until the same shall be returned.
4. Any student who shall turn down a leaf, soil or injure a book in any manner, shall pay a fine of not less than 6 cents for every such offense - and for every material damage to the book shall forfeit the value of it.
5. No student, after having been fined, shall take any more books from the library until his fine is paid.

It is interesting to note that these regulations were determined by the Principal of the college and were recorded in the minutes of the Board. The college catalog of 1857-58 (called the "Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Washington College of the University of Maryland, Chestertown, Maryland") states:

The College Library is large and well selected, and accessible to the Students, according to regulations established by the Board of Visitors.

By 1890, as seen in the college catalog of 1890-91, the faculty or librarian set the regulations, but the collection was for the use of the Board as well as for the immediate college community:

LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

There is a well selected Library which is supplied with many valuable works relating to History, Biography, Science, Voyages, Travels, Criticism, Poetry, Fine Art and general literature, for the accommodation of the Board of Visitors and the students and officers of the College, who are allowed to take books from the library, subject to certain rules prescribed by the Faculty or Librarian.

The Library and Reading-room are open on Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 to 12 A.M. The following magazines are furnished for the accommodation of students and teachers:

THE NATION, HARPERS, CENTURY, ATLANTIC, ECLECTIC,
FORUM, NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY,
SAINT NICHOLAS, NATURE, EDUCATION,
SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN AND FLIEGENDE BLAETTER.



An article in the November, 1907 issue of **Library Journal** entitled "College Libraries in the Mid-nineteenth Century" describes most academic libraries as being similar to that of Washington College. It points out that hours of opening were chiefly for taking and returning books. Usually the student did not have direct access to the books, and facilities for studying in the library were seldom furnished. The fixed curriculum and lack of change in methods of instruction accounted for slowness in growth of collections. Library endowments were rare; donations of books were the chief source of library collections. The smallness of libraries and the limited required use of them made it unnecessary to have a full time librarian. The custom arose, therefore, that the duties of a librarian were combined with the responsibilities of a professor. Also, because libraries were often small, few colleges had separate library buildings. In spite of the fact that the library had a minor role in the work of an institution, it was regarded as a chief asset and rigid regulations were enforced. In discussing the limitations of use of the library in the mid-nineteenth century the article states that "at Washington College, in Maryland, strangers were 'sometimes, by courtesy, permitted to use the library.'"

Students at Washington College had access to books besides those in the library. An early account tells of the professors sharing their libraries with the students, a custom true to the present. Also, the Mount Vernon Literary Society, founded in 1847, provided a library. In 1882, however, the Society, donated its collection to the college library.

The library had its low periods, too. Soon after the session of 1873-74 was underway the new principal, William J. Rivers, sent a report to the Board including a statement on the library as recorded in his Memorandum Book:

"The Library Room we found without a key, and the Room open to any one who wished to enter it. (In fact it was at times used as a bedroom for the family of the stewardess.) The roof leaked. No care had been taken of the books. Many of the sets are broken, and I am told that books belonging to the Library have been carried off. Of the small number remaining, a few are interesting and invoke perusal - but most of them are of little value. The number of volumes I make out to be (1098) one thousand and ninety eight. Of these 750 are Public Documents from Washington. Of the rest, 48 are in bad condition. We have therefore about 300 in good condition, of which 30 volumes consist of broken sets or sets of which one or more volumes are missing. Besides these the Encyclopedia Britannica of 21 Quarto volumes has the 4th volume missing. The books are, for the most part, American editions of very inferior paper and binding. . . ."

A catalog of the library with the description of the condition of each book accompanied Dr. Rivers' report to the Board.

Apparently, during the next few years the condition of the library improved. Dr. Rivers reported to the Board in 1877 that students took a great interest in reading library books and that 39 volumes had been added during the year.



In 1881 the Board passed a resolution that the "Principal of the college be authorized to have the library painted, the cases put in order and to procure a proper carpet or matting for the floor."

In 1891 the Board resolved that the Principal make provisions for accommodating "all scholars" without rooms of their own between recitation periods. This need had existed for some time, but with the admission of young women it became urgent. Certainly, young ladies could not join the men students in their rooms for study or relaxation between classes! It was not until 1897, however, that the Board appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements for the library to be moved to the lower floor to be used as a "sitting room for the day scholars."



William Smith Hall was the location of the library in the first half of the present century.



The college library was on the second floor of William Smith in the early twentieth century.

Fire again destroyed the college library in 1916 when William Smith Hall burned. In describing the fire the local papers, Baltimore papers, and Washington College publications all mentioned the complete loss of the college library. The **Baltimore News** said, "The institution had books and manuscripts of priceless value, but the flames went from floor to floor with such rapidity that saving them was beyond question." The **Baltimore Sun** noted that the library was insured for \$3,500.00, but, of course, the historical documents were irreplaceable. The selection of books to be purchased with the insurance money was entrusted to the heads of the college departments. Also, toward the reestablishment of the library, authorities of Johns Hopkins University promised to contribute duplicate volumes from their library. Similar offers were made by the presidents of Princeton University and Yale University. Although an article on the reconstruction of William Smith Hall in the **Washington Collegiate**, January, 1917, told of President James W. Cain arranging for a core library to be available upon the completion of the building, it apparently was not collected until President Clarence P. Gould's administration. In submitting his resignation in April, 1923, President Gould listed as among achievements during his four years the purchase of a new library of 5,000 volumes recognized to contain "unusual proportions of the best works for college use."

In aspiring for a Grade A rating for the college, President Paul E. Titsworth related to the Board in its February, 1925 meeting that "one of the final requirements for entrance into this blissful state, we are told, is the employment of a trained librarian. It is largely for this reason, therefore, that I have at this time recommended the speedy employment of this requisite addition to the staff of Washington College." He recommended that the President, with the approval of the Committee on Faculty and Curriculum, be authorized to hire a librarian at an initial salary not to exceed \$1,500.00. The librarian was also to teach a three hour course either in Freshman English or Modern Language.

In February, 1926 the Board approved the appointment of Miss Bahnie C. Wedekind as Associate Librarian to become Librarian the following fall. Until this time a professor had served as librarian in addition to all of his other responsibilities. During her first year Miss Wedekind found time to direct the performance of a one act play, "The Professor Stubs His Toe," written by President Titsworth.

Throughout his administration, President Titsworth worked to establish a stronger library. His concern is still evident. Almost fifty years after his resignation, The Rotary Club of Chestertown established an endowment fund for the purchase of library books in memory of Dr. Titsworth.

During the summer of 1926 the library was moved from the two rooms on the second floor of William Smith to the basement to "accommodate overcrowded cases and increased number of readers." The stacks occupied the space below the auditorium; and the reading room, space that had not been used before below the entrance to the building. The cost of the move was \$339.29, which was paid from the library appropriation.



In spite of this move to a "commodious and well lighted space," Miss Wedekind, in her first annual report in 1927 listed a home as the first need of the library. She reported ten needs:

1. A home
2. Ceiling
3. Inverted lights
4. A fourth assistant
5. Wall Maps (of Maryland,
the United States, and the world)
6. A globe
7. Missing issues of magazines
8. Fiction which will be interesting to students who are
just beginning to like to read
9. Book cases (open and closed)
10. Prints of good pictures and a display holder for them

Dr. Titsworth's successor, Dr. Gilbert W. Mead, also recognized that the library had to be improved if the college was to survive. During his first year, in December, 1933 the Board appointed a Committee to study the possibility of undertaking a construction program. The administration later provided a survey of existing facilities which included a study of the relation of the library to the curriculum. On the recommendation of the Carnegie Corporation to Washington College, the services of two library experts, one from the University of Chicago and the other from Philadelphia, were obtained. After an exhaustive study, they provided an extended document of criticism and a suggested plan for the development of library service over a period of years.

In 1939 ground was broken for the college's first separate library building, the George A. Bunting Library. Dr. Bunting, an alumnus of the college, class of 1891, donated \$50,000 toward the erection of the building which cost slightly over \$100,000. Dr. Bunting, a pharmacist in Baltimore, developed the skin cream known as Noxema and founded the Noxema Chemical Company, which later became the Noxell Corporation. When the building was dedicated on February 24, 1940, the name given the library was Bunting-Foxwell Library. In accordance with an earlier agreement, however, the college officially renamed the library on April 13, 1940, and planned another building in honor of Senator Garrett Foxwell.

Bunting Library, now used for administrative offices, is a two story building with a half story basement in a modified Maryland colonial design. The greater part of the first floor was occupied by the Reading Room, measuring 80 by 35 feet with seating capacity for 120. The upper floor provided space for four seminar rooms and a museum. The stack area in the rear was designed to house 50,000 volumes. The basement was used for work areas, the college book store, and offices for the Elm and the Pegasus. The architect, Mr. Henry Powell Hopkins, of Baltimore, was also the architect for Hodson Hall and the restoration of Reid Hall.



Rooms in the basement of William Smith Hall were remodeled in 1927 to house the growing library.



The George A. Bunting Library housed the library from 1940 to 1970.

Two large murals in the Reading Room, the work of a Baltimore artist, Mr. M. Paul Roche, depict scenes described in William Smith's "An Account of Washington College in the State of Maryland," the first published history of the college. One mural shows the laying of the cornerstone of the first college building as described by Dr. Smith:

"...the Visitors and Governors, the Masters, Students and Scholars, accompanied by a great number of gentlemen from the neighboring counties, went in procession to the hill where the new College is to be built; and after prayer by the Rev. Dr. Smith, the foundation stone was laid, with the proper ceremony, by His Excellency Governor Paca, who was saluted on the occasion by thirteen discharges of cannon."

The other mural depicts a visit to the campus made by General Washington in 1784; again quoting Dr. Smith:

"...in May 1784 the Seminary was honoured with a visit from His Excellency George Washington, Esq., the illustrious patriot, whose name it bears, and who took his seat and subscribed his name as one of the Visitors and Governors. On this occasion, the students entertained the public with the tragedy of 'Gustavus Vasa', the great deliverer of Sweden from Danish oppression, a performance breathing throughout the whole the most animated sentiments of Liberty, heroism, and public spirit. It was received with the justest approbation, ...calling the more immediate attention of the audience to their favorite hero, in whose presence it was spoken, drew tears of gratulation from every eye, and repeated bursts of applause from every heart."

Mr. Roche also painted the portrait of Dr. Bunting which was placed over the fireplace mantel. In the portrait Dr. Bunting is holding a book, "Self Help", by Samuel Smiles. On the day the library was dedicated Dr. Bunting told the gathering that this book had excited his imagination and interest more than any other in the old Washington College Library. A copy was presented along with the formal presentation of Bunting Library as a memento of the old "library in the spare room."

In annual reports during the years following the dedication of Bunting Library, the librarian systematically showed how the library attempted to meet and to maintain the level of excellence set by the Middle States Association, the survey that was made in the thirties, and the announced aims of Washington College. Before then, in the years between the fire of 1916 and the opening of Bunting in 1940, the library had accumulated 23,000 volumes. Yet these were out of date and out of balance. The collection contained less than 15% of a standard list for college libraries. By 1945 the figure was raised to 30%. The collection had grown to 32,000 volumes and it had overcome many specific criticisms.

In 1961-62 the college's decision to expand enrollment to 750 had far reaching changes for the library. Within twenty years the library in Bunting had become crowded. Several rooms in the basement had been vacated by non library tenants, such as the offices of the Elm and the Pegasus, to make more room for library material and operation. The Museum Room had been transformed into a second reading room. The Library Committee presented detailed recommendations for the enlargement of the library. The idea of a new library was being more and more discussed and the Library Committee was then asked to prepare a preliminary program for such a building. The principal recommendation was the construction of a modular building, with a capacity of 150,000-160,000 volumes, 250 readers, and a staff of seven, with books and reader space interchangeable.





Murals in Bunting Library depict scenes described in William Smith's "An Account of Washington College."

In 1961 Clifton M. Miller, Chairman of the Development Committee of the Board of Visitors and Governors, announced plans of a campaign to increase education services and facilities of the college, including an addition to Bunting Library. The college engaged a library building consultant, Mr. J. Russell Bailey, who in 1963 gave the unequivocal opinion that Bunting could not be expanded or remodeled as an up-to-date, effective library building. He did think it could be adapted to some other academic or administrative purpose. Mr. Bailey recommended three possibilities as to the location of a new library: 1) the site of Cain Gymnasium, next to William Smith Hall, 2) the lower corner of campus at Washington and Campus streets, and 3) the front campus somewhat below, but on line with the Washington elm and the flagpole. He preferred the third site.

During the next several years plans for the new building continued while changes in the old took place to accommodate growth. In 1964-65 the Library Committee sent questionnaires to the faculty soliciting opinions on features to be included in a new building but only thirteen replies were received. An important step toward the funding of the new building occurred when the General Assembly of Maryland, in its 1967 session, appropriated \$387,500.00 for the project. That year students for the first time were appointed to the Library Committee. They were particularly interested in the new building and faculty members of the Committee felt that the addition of students gave strength to the group. A bid for the construction of the building was accepted in September, 1968. At that time the Library Committee assisted in choosing furnishings and color schemes as did the Board's Building Committee and the Library staff. Also, Mrs. Clifton M. Miller gave valuable assistance.

The site chosen for the new library was the one next to William Smith Hall. Cain Gymnasium was demolished. On May 31, 1969 the Saturday of Commencement Week-end, the cornerstone of the new library, named in memory of Clifton M. Miller, was laid, with impressive ceremonies conducted by the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland. Members of the Board of Visitors and Governors and of the administration were on the platform, and Mrs. Clifton M. Miller was also present.

In the cornerstone was deposited a box containing photographs illustrative of the library's history from the early years of this century, lists of the library staff and of committees closely concerned with the planning of the building, and a collection of 1969 coins.

On Saturday, November 14, 1970 the move of the library from Bunting to Miller began at 8:45 a.m. with the President and the Librarian carrying the first load of books. Throughout the day help came from members of the college community and many citizens of Chestertown and neighboring Queen Anne's County — Boy Scouts, high school students, students of Gunston School, families of the library staff, alumni, and many other friends. The job was



Members of the college community and friends of the college moved the collection from Bunting Library to Miller Library on November 14, 1970.

finished by 3:00 p.m. During the day refreshments were served at Bunting by members of the Pan Hellenic Council and at the end of the move the Men's Residence Association provided free beer on the terrace of the new Miller Library.

The dedication of the library took place on the library terrace on the afternoon of May 8, 1971. Dr. William S. Dix, Librarian of Princeton University, gave the principal address. A portrait of Mr. Miller, which now hangs in the library, was presented by the family and accepted by Mr. Philip J. Wingate, Chairman of the Board of Visitors and Governors. An appreciation of Mr. Miller was given by Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson, President Emeritus. The architect, Mr. J. Russell Bailey, and the Librarian, Mr. Robert G. Bailey, each spoke briefly. The invocation and benediction were pronounced by the Bishop of Easton, the Right Reverend George A. Taylor. Following the exercises, an informal reception was held in the Sophie Kerr Rare Books Room in the new library.

Although the architectural design of Miller Library is of the current style, it was planned to blend harmoniously with the college buildings of earlier periods. This was accomplished not only by using red brick as had been used in all other campus buildings and including certain comparable details as the horizontal lines above and below the second story windows to correspond to details in William Smith Hall, but also by landscaping the exterior with the charming patio, walkways, steps, and foliage so that a natural transition occurs.

As in all college libraries, gifts have played a large part in building a collection. One librarian used the local newspaper to express gratitude. The **Kent News** of July 26, 1851, printed this notice:

The Librarian of Washington College, on behalf of the authorities thereof embraces this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of 'The Annals of Congress' in 6 vols. 8VO from the Hon. Alexander Evans of Elkton and from Hon. James Alfred Pearce has been received 'The Congressional Globe' in four volumes.

Most of the gifts, especially in the early years, were books rather than money to buy books. It was not until the present century that endowments were established for purchasing books. In the 1920's the Alumni Association began to build an endowment foundation as a memorial to the person and work of Dr. James Roy Micou. Dr. Micou had the privilege of spending the interest from the fund for books he wished to purchase for the library. The library continues to benefit from this fund. Also, the library received Dr. Micou's personal library. Dr. Micou had been instructor in math and science, and for thirty-five years taught modern language, Latin, and sometimes History and Greek. Along with his teaching he served as Vice Principal of the college and as librarian for a number of years. Over the years other endowments have been established, and many gifts of money, books, periodicals, and recordings have been made. One alumna, Mrs. Mary Steele Knight, has donated several thousand volumes in recent years. The Women's League of Washington College also contributes funds for the purchase of library material. Sophie Kerr's bequest to the college has



great significance to the library by affording funds for the purchase of all material selected by the English Department for the collection.

From the beginning there has been the interest, sometimes not as great as it should have been, in acquiring and maintaining a library at Washington College. The writings of the principals and presidents show concern that the college have an adequate library and that it be in good order. Appointing a professor to serve as librarian demonstrated the realization of the importance of the library to the total curriculum. But it is not until annual reports were written by professional librarians that we can see the development of all areas of library service. From the first report in 1927 we get a picture of the acquiring, cataloging, maintaining, and circulating of books. We read that a magazine rack had been acquired, and that more fiction would be welcomed. The library was rearranged to offer greater access to material - the beginnings of open stacks. During the academic year of 1929-30 the library first supplied requests through the inter-library loan services of Enoch Pratt and Johns Hopkins. Another first was in 1934 when a course in library methods was given. In 1940 formal reference service was undertaken for the first time. The idea of creating an informal study hall with ventilation for smoking was approved by the administration in 1941. Using part of the gift of the Class of 1953 as down payment, the librarian purchased a three speed high fidelity record player for the library - another first. The library already had a small collection of records, Microtexts became a familiar part of the collection in the fifties.

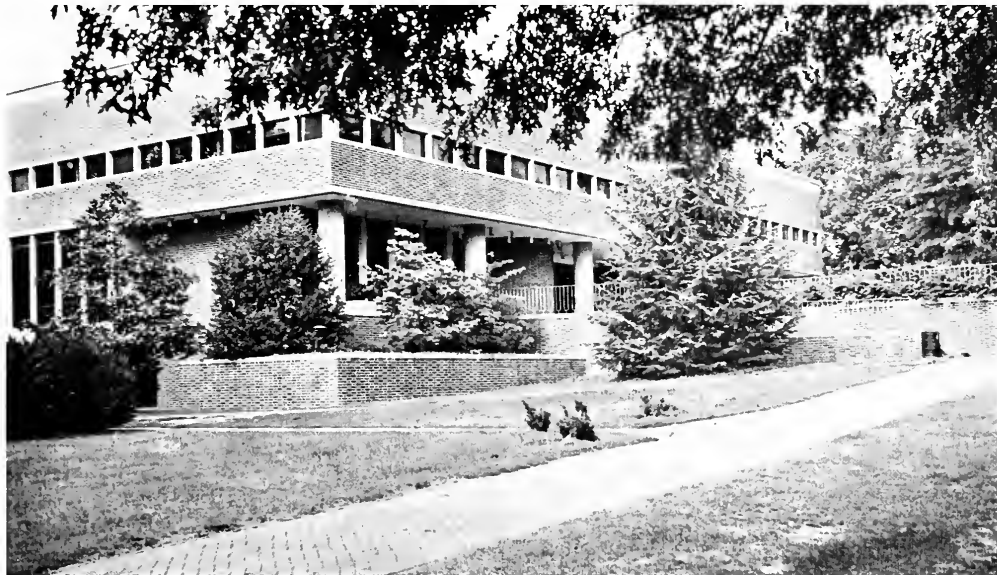
As the years passed the library was open for service more hours. Experiments were made to make this possible. One year, 1952-53, because of disciplinary problems when only a student assistant was on duty, faculty volunteered evening service. In 1958, although a professional librarian was not on duty on Sunday, one was always on call. During the summer of 1958 the library kept regular hours which had not been the case before thus increasing the use of the library by non-college readers. This practice was continued during the academic year and remains a part of the library program.

Automation processes in the library have barely begun, but will certainly grow, first in cataloging and acquiring material. These efforts, as all those in earlier years, are made to enhance the service the library offers.

So it was in 1782 the college provided "necessary books" as part of a "system of liberal education in the arts and sciences," and now it is, two hundred years later, the college provides necessary books and other print and non-print material, with a staff to make the material readily available and to assist the students at Washington College in obtaining the greatest use and enjoyment of it during their pursuit of a liberal education in the arts and sciences.

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The Clifton M. Miller Library, with a capacity for twenty years growth, was designed with expansion possibilities of the lower floor being extended on the north side.

LIBRARIANS

1782-1891	No records available
1889-1892	Rowland Watts
1892-1893	E.J. Clarke
1893-1897	No records available
1897-1901	J.R. Micou
1901-1905	No records available
1905-1911	J.S. Williams Jones
1911-1916	Julio del Toro
1916-1917	Cayetano Panetiere
1917-1918	Charles F. Monzani
1918-1919	James W. Johns
1919-1920	Fernand Bonnotte
1920-1921	Lawrence C. Woodman
1921-1926	William R. Howell
1926-1928	Bahnie C. Wedekind
1928-1939	Ethel S. Fox Jones
1939-1940	Paul Solandt (Acting Librarian)
1940-1941	Harold L. Boisen
1941-1942	Henry E. Coleman, Jr.
1942-1946	Harold L. Boisen
1946-Dec. 1947	Harold E. Coleman, Jr.
1948-1957	Frederick A. Meigs
1957-1976	Robert G. Bailey
1976-	Betty Wasson

Professor of Mathematics
Professor of English and Elocution

Vice President and Professor of Latin

Professor of Mathematics
Instructor in Spanish, Mathematics and Science
Instructor in Spanish, Mathematics and Science
Instructor in Modern Language, Mathematics
and Science
Instructor in Preparatory Department
Professor of English
Professor of English
Professor of Philosophy and Economics

Ass't. Professor of Latin and French



